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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,851	10/17/2003	Susan B. Cirulli	END920030048US1	9562
23550 7590 08/10/2007 HOFFMAN WARNICK & D'ALESSANDRO, LLC 75 STATE STREET 14TH FLOOR ALBANY, NY 12207			EXAMINER POND, ROBERT M	
			ART UNIT 3625	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,851

Applicant(s)

CIRULLI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert M. Pond

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/17/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-8, 11-19, 21-30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Okada (US 6,910,018).**

Okada teaches all the limitations of claims 1-8, 11-19, 21-30. For example, Okada discloses a purchase request approval system, method, and computer program product (see at least abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2-4; col. 1, line 5-col. 2, line14). Okada further discloses:

- logging an approver into an application; approver logs into application (see at least Fig. 9; col. 4, lines 40-64; col. 10, lines 43-57; col. 19, lines 47-54)

- displaying a view containing a set of item requests to the approver; (see at least Fig. 24; col. 19, line 54-col. 20, line 8).
- receiving an approval determination for at least one of the set of item requests from the approver; (see at least Fig. 8; Figs 25 & 26; col. 20, line 9-col. 21, line 21).
- and updating an approver list corresponding to the at least one of the set of item requests based on the approval determination. list updated (see at least col. 20, lines 28-54).
- Claim 2. receiving comments from the approver based on the approval determination. Comments based on approval determination (see at least Fig. 8 ("A reply for purchase-requested article")).
- Claim 3. displaying an informational message to the approver, prior to receiving the approval determination. Comments send by requester (see at least Fig. 7 ("Please approve purchase request")).
- Claim 4. communicating an approval message to the approver prior to the logging step, wherein the approval message informs the approver of the at least one item request requiring approval; after approver logs into the system the system displays a list or pending requests as noted above (see at least Fig. 24).
and forwarding the approval message to a subsequent approver in the approver list after the updating step. Approver receives list via display as noted above.

- Claim 5. verifying an authorization of the approver to make the approval determination. System determines requester vs. approver as noted above (see at least col. 4, lines 40-64).
- Claim 6. communicating a result message to a requestor based on the approval determination. Approval or rejection message is sent by approval system as noted above pertaining to Fig. 7 & 8.
- Claim 7. updating an approval status corresponding to the at least one item request, wherein the approval status is selected from the group consisting of approved, rejected and pending. "wait for approval", approved, rejected (see at least col. 12; lines 54-60; col. 20, lines 26-27, 48).
- Claim 8. wherein the approval determination is selected from the group consisting of approved and rejected. As noted above.
- shopping cart. (see at least Fig. 13; Fig. 17; col. 11, lines 54-63).

Pertaining to system claims 11-19

Rejection of claims 10-20 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

Pertaining to program product claims 21-30

Rejection of claims 21-31 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

Uses software embodied in computer readable medium.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9, 20, and 31 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada (US 6,910,018).

Okada teaches all the above as noted in the 102(e) rejection and further teaches i) providing "convenient" data input methods for both requester and approver (see at least col. 19, lines 44-46; col. 21, lines 15-16), ii) "efficient" input, requesting, and approval/rejection processes (see at least col. 1, lines 29-24), iii) storing personnel IDs of approvers, and further teaches searching the system's database using the approver's id to display purchase requests (see at least col. 12, lines 22-39). Although Okada does not disclose wherein the approver list identifies approvers that have approved the at least one item request, and approvers that have yet to approve the at least one item request it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a user, through repeated searches could search every approver by personnel ID to ascertain approvers who have and have not approved at least one item request or simply implement a listing feature for the purpose of ascertaining overall system

efficiency. Please note: dependent claims are merely listing data that has no

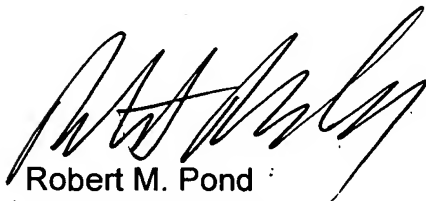
consequence to the parent claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Pond whose telephone number is 571-272-6760. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Robert M. Pond
Primary Examiner
August 3, 2007